UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS SAN ANTONIO DIVISION

KEVIN LANGEN, individually and on behalf of	
all others similarly situated,	

Case No.

Plaintiff,

FLSA Collective Action

v.

Jury Trial Demanded

CRESCENT DRILLING AND PRODUCTION, INC.,

Defendant.

ORIGINAL COMPLAINT

SUMMARY

- 1. Kevin Langen (Langen) brings this lawsuit to recover the unpaid overtime wages and other damages owed under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).
- 2. Crescent Drilling & Production, Inc. (CD&P) is a private company engaged in the management of oil and natural gas properties.
 - 3. CD&P employs oilfield personnel, like Langen, to carry out its work.
- 4. Langen, and the other workers like him, were typically scheduled for 12 plus hour shifts, 7 days a week, for weeks at a time.
 - 5. But CD&P did not pay Langen or the other workers like him overtime.
- 6. Instead of paying overtime as required by the FLSA, CD&P paid these workers a day-rate and improperly classified them as independent contractors.
- 7. This collective action seeks to recover the unpaid overtime wages and other damages owed to these workers.

JURISDICTION & VENUE

- 8. This Court has original subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 because this action involves a federal question under the FLSA. 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).
- 9. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 (b) because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred in this District.
 - 10. Langen worked in this District and Division.
 - 11. Langen is a resident of this District and Division.

PARTIES

- 12. From approximately September 2015 to November 2017, Langen worked for CD&P as a Flowback Coordinator.
 - 13. CD&P staffed Langen to Sanchez Oil & Gas Corporation (SOG).
- 14. Throughout his employment with CD&P, he was paid a day-rate with no overtime compensation and he was classified as an independent contractor.
 - 15. His consent to be a party plaintiff is attached as Exhibit A.
- 16. Langen brings this action on behalf of himself and all other similarly situated workers who were classified as independent contractors and paid according to CD&P's day-rate system.
- 17. CD&P paid each of these workers a flat amount for each day worked and failed to pay them overtime for all hours that they worked in excess of 40 hours in a workweek.
- 18. The class of similarly situated employees sought to be certified as a collective action is defined as:

All workers who provided services to or on behalf of Crescent Drilling & Production during the past 3 years who were classified as independent contractors and paid on a day rate basis with no overtime (the "Day Rate Workers").

19. Langen seeks conditional and final certification of this FLSA collective action under 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

20. Defendant, Crescent Drilling & Production, may be served by serving its registered agent for service of process, Lisa Africk, 2400 Veterans Memorial Blvd, Suite 110, Kenner, Louisiana 70062.

FLSA COVERAGE

- 21. CD&P offers Engineering and Project Management services to cover all functions required for an operator to successfully manage onshore and offshore properties.¹
- 22. For at least the past decade, CD&P has consistently employed dozens of workers in the United States.
 - 23. CD&P is an employer within the meaning of the FLSA. 29 U.S.C. § 203(d).
- 24. CD&P is a covered enterprise within the meaning of Section 3(r) of the FLSA. 29 U.S.C. § 203(r).
- 25. CD&P's annual revenues of more than \$1,000,000 per year far exceed the minimum (\$500,000) required for coverage under the FLSA.
- 26. CD&P's workers handled, sold, and/or worked on goods or materials that moved in or were produced for commerce by any person.
- 27. For example, CD&P's workers use wrenches, hammers, screw drivers, cell phones, automobiles, computers, steel toe boots, and fire-retardant clothing in performing their work.
- 28. In assisting with the production of oil and gas, Langen and the Day Rate Workers engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce.
- 29. CD&P treated Langen and the Day Rate Workers as employees and dictated the pay practices Langen and the Day Rate Workers were subjected to.
- 30. CD&P's misclassification of Langen and the Day Rate Workers as independent contractors does not alter its status as their employer for purposes of the FLSA.

¹ https://www.crescentdrilling.com/company-profile (last visited March 29, 2019).

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 31. CD&P is a large oil and gas company.
- 32. It operates throughout the United States, and in Texas.
- 33. In order to make the goods and provide the services it markets to its customers; CD&P employs oilfield personnel like Langen and the Day Rate Workers and staffs them to oil and gas operators.
 - 34. These oilfield workers carry out the hands-on, day-to-day production work for CD&P.
- 35. CD&P paid Langen and the Day Rate Workers a flat sum for each day worked, regardless of the number of hours that they worked that day (or in that workweek).
- 36. CD&P failed to pay Langen and the Day Rate Workers overtime for hours that they worked in excess of 40 hours in a workweek.
 - 37. For more than 2 years, Langen was one of these workers.
 - 38. Langen typically worked 12 days on and 2 days off.
- 39. In a standard two-week period, Langen worked at least 84 hours in one week, and at least 60 hours in the other week.
 - 40. But CD&P did not pay Langen overtime.
 - 41. The work Langen performed was an essential part of CD&P's core services.
- 42. During Langen's employment with CD&P, CD&P exercised control (directly or jointly through another company) over all aspects of his job.
- 43. Langen did not make substantial investment in order to perform the work CD&P required of him.
 - 44. CD&P determined Langen's opportunity for "profit."
- 45. Because Langen received a daily rate for every day worked, Langen could not experience a "loss" in the sense relevant to determining whether someone is an employee under the FLSA.

- 46. Langen's earnings were controlled by CD&P through the number of days it scheduled him to work.
 - 47. Langen did not provide unique services indicative of a third-party contractor.
- 48. Langen performed routine manual and technical job duties that were largely dictated by CD&P and its clients.
- 49. Langen worked exclusively for CD&P and its clients while being misclassified as an independent contractor from approximately September 2015 to November 2017.
- 50. Langen was not employed by CD&P on a project-by-project basis, but rather on a consistent basis.
- 51. CD&P, individually and/or jointly with a company it contracted with, controlled all the significant or meaningful aspects of the job duties performed by Langen.
- 52. CD&P, individually and/or jointly with a company it contracted with, controlled the hours and locations Langen worked, the tools he used, and the rates of pay he received.
 - 53. Langen used equipment provided by CD&P or its clients to perform his job duties.
 - 54. Langen did not provide the equipment he worked with on a daily basis.
 - 55. Langen did not incur operating expenses like rent, payroll, marketing, and insurance.
 - 56. Langen was economically dependent on CD&P during his employment.
- 57. CD&P and the operator it staffed Langen to set Langen's rates of pay, his work schedule, and prohibited his (formally or practically) from working other jobs for other companies while he was working on jobs for CD&P.
- 58. Langen's working relationship with CD&P was similar to that of the other Day Rate Workers.
- 59. Very little skill, training, or initiative (in the relevant sense of "business initiative") was required of Langen and the Day Rate Workers to perform their job duties.

- 60. Indeed, the daily and weekly activities of Langen and the Day Rate Workers were routine and largely governed by standardized plans, procedures, and checklists created or mandated by CD&P.
- 61. Virtually every job function performed by Langen and the Day Rate Workers was predetermined by CD&P and/or its clients, including the tools to use at a job site, the data to compile, the schedule of work, and related work duties.
- 62. Langen and the Day Rate Workers were generally prohibited from varying their job duties outside of the pre-determined parameters.
- 63. The Day Rate Workers also worked similar hours and were denied overtime as a result of the same illegal pay practice.
- 64. Like Langen, the Day Rate Workers were generally scheduled for daily shifts of 12 (or more) hours for weeks at a time.
 - 65. Langen and the Day Rate Workers did not receive a salary.
- 66. If Langen and the Day Rate Workers did not work on a particular day, they did not get paid for that day.
- 67. Langen and the Day Rate Workers received a daily rate and were classified as independent contractors.
- 68. Langen and the Day Rate Workers received the day rate regardless of the number of hours they worked in excess of 40 hours in a work week.
- 69. Langen and the Day Rate Workers' pay fluctuated in lockstep with the number of days worked in a pay period.
- 70. Langen and the Day Rate Workers were paid their day rate times the number of days they worked in a week.
 - 71. Langen and the Day Rate Workers did not receive overtime pay.
 - 72. Langen and the Day Rate Workers relied on CD&P for work and compensation.

- 73. Langen and the Day Rate Workers were not permitted by CD&P to subcontract out the work CD&P assigned to them.
- 74. Langen and the Day Rate Workers worked in accordance with the schedule set by CD&P and its clients.
 - 75. Langen and the Day Rate Workers must follow CD&P's policies and procedures.
- 76. Langen and the Day Rate Workers' work must adhere to the quality standards put in place by CD&P and its clients.
- 77. Langen and the Day Rate Workers did not make substantial capital investments in the tools required to complete the jobs to which they were assigned.
- 78. CD&P knew, or acted with reckless disregard for whether, Langen and the Day Rate Workers were misclassified as independent contractors.
- 79. CD&P knows employees are entitled to overtime pay for hours worked in excess of 40 in a workweek.
- 80. Nonetheless, CD&P failed to pay Langen and the Day Rate Workers overtime for those hours exceeding 40 in a workweek.
- 81. CD&P's policy of classifying Langen and the Day Rate Workers as independent contractors and failing to pay them overtime violates the FLSA because these workers are, for the purposes of the FLSA, employees.

COLLECTIVE ACTION ALLEGATIONS

- 82. The illegal pay practice CD&P imposed on Langen were likewise imposed on the Day Rate Workers.
- 83. Numerous individuals were victimized by this pattern, practice, and policy which is in willful violation of the FLSA. The Day Rate Workers are similarly situated in relevant respects.

- 84. Numerous other individuals who worked with Langen were classified as independent contractors, paid in the same manner, performed similar work, and were not properly compensated for all hours worked as required by applicable law.
- 85. Even if their precise job duties might vary somewhat, these differences do not matter for the purposes of determining their entitlement to overtime.
- 86. Langen and the Day Rate Workers are all entitled to overtime after 40 hours in a week for the same reasons.
- 87. The overtime owed to Langen and the Day Rate Workers will be calculated using the same records and the same formula.
- 88. Langen and the Day Rate Workers are geographically disbursed, residing and working in states across the county.
- 89. CD&P's failure to pay overtime at the rates required federal law result from generally applicable, systematic policies, and practices which are not dependent on the personal circumstances of the Day Rate Workers.
 - 90. Langen's experiences are therefore typical of the experiences of the Day Rate Workers.
 - 91. Langen has no interests contrary to, or in conflict with, the Day Rate Workers.
- 92. Absent a collective action, many members of the FLSA Class likely will not obtain redress of their injuries and CD&P would retain the proceeds of its violation of the FLSA.
 - 93. Individual litigation would be unduly burdensome to the judicial system.
- 94. Concentrating the litigation in one forum will promote judicial economy and parity among the claims of individual members of the classes and provide for judicial consistency.
- 95. Langen and the Day Rate Workers are similarly situated within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

CAUSE OF ACTION

Violation of the FLSA

- 96. As set forth herein, CD&P has violated, and is violating, the FLSA by employing Langen and the Day Rate Workers in an enterprise engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce within the meaning of the FLSA for workweeks longer than 40 hours without compensating such employees for their employment in excess of 40 hours per week at rates no less than 1 and ½ times the regular rates for which they were employed.
- 97. CD&P knowingly, willfully, or in reckless disregard carried out this illegal pattern or practice of failing to pay Langen and the Day Rate Workers overtime.
- 98. CD&P's failure to pay overtime compensation to these employees was not reasonable, nor was the decision not to pay overtime made in good faith.
- 99. CD&P's failure to pay Langen and the Day Rate Workers overtime at rates not less than one and one-half times their proper regular rate violates 29 U.S.C. § 207.
- 100. Accordingly, Langen and the Day Rate Workers are entitled to overtime under the FLSA, liquidated damages, attorney's fees and costs.

JURY DEMAND

101. Langen demands a trial by jury.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Langen prays for:

a. An order designating this lawsuit as a collective action and authorizing notice pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b) to the proposed Day Rate Workers to permit them to join this action by filing a written notice of consent;

- b. A judgment against CD&P awarding Langen and the Day Rate Workers all their unpaid overtime compensation and an additional, equal amount, as liquidated damages;
- An order awarding attorney fees, costs, and expenses;
- d. Pre- and post-judgment interest at the highest applicable rates; and
- e. Such other and further relief as may be necessary and appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Michael A. Josephson

Michael A. Josephson

State Bar No. 24014780

Andrew Dunlap

State Bar No. 24078444

Richard M. Schreiber

State Bar No. 24056278

JOSEPHSON DUNLAP LLP

11 Greenway Plaza, Suite 3050 Houston, Texas 77046 713-352-1100 — Telephone

713-352-3300 – Facsimile

mjosephson@mybackwages.com

adunlap@mybackwages.com

rschreiber@mybackwages.com

AND

Richard J. (Rex) Burch

Fed. Id. 21615

Texas Bar No. 24001807

BRUCKNER BURCH PLLC

8 Greenway Plaza, Suite 1500

Houston, Texas 77046

713-877-8788 – Telephone

713-877-8065 – Facsimile

rburch@brucknerburch.com

ATTORNEYS IN CHARGE FOR PLAINTIFF

JS 44 (Rev. 06/17)

Case 5:19-cv-01194-FB-ESC Document 1 Filed 10/04/19 Page 11 of 14 CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil decket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PACE OF THIS FORM.)

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I. (a) PLAINTIFFS				DEFENDANTS						
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES) (c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)				County of Residence NOTE: IN LAND CO THE TRACT Attorneys (If Known)	<i>NLY)</i> HE LOCATION (ION OF				
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INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- **I.(a) Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
 - (b) County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
 - (c) Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- **II. Jurisdiction.** The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.
 - United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here. United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.
 - Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.
 - Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; **NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.**)
- **III. Residence** (citizenship) of Principal Parties. This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit. Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code that is most applicable. Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.
- **V. Origin.** Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.
 - Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.
 - Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.
 - Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.
 - Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date. Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.
 - Multidistrict Litigation Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407
 - Multidistrict Litigation Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket. **PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7.** Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statue.
- VI. Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity. Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service
- **VII. Requested in Complaint.** Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P. Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction. Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases. This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

EXHIBIT A

CONSENT TO JOIN WAGE CLAIM

Print Name: KEVIN LANGEN
I hereby consent to participate in a collective action lawsuit against Crescent to pursue my claims of unpaid overtime during the time that I worked with the company.
2. I understand that this lawsuit is brought under the Fair Labor Standards Act, and consent to be bound by the Court's decision.
 I designate the law firm and attorneys at JOSEPHSON DUNLAP as my attorneys to prosecute my wage claims.
 I authorize the law firm and attorneys at JOSEPHSON DUNLAP to use this consent t file my claim in a separate lawsuit, class/collective action, or arbitration against th company.
Signature: KEV/H DANGEH [Apr 11, 2018] Date Signed: Apr 11, 2018